



# House of Representatives

## File No. 787

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**(Reprint of File No. 307)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5771  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 8, 2015

### **AN ACT AUTHORIZING PHARMACISTS TO DISPENSE DRUGS IN NINETY-DAY QUANTITIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1      Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) A pharmacist may exercise  
2      his or her professional judgment in refilling a prescription for a  
3      quantity of a drug greater than the initial quantity of a drug prescribed  
4      by the prescribing practitioner, provided (1) such refill is made after  
5      the patient's initial prescription is dispensed, (2) such refill does not  
6      exceed a ninety-day supply of such drug and does not exceed the total  
7      quantity of such drug authorized by the prescribing practitioner, (3)  
8      the prescribing practitioner has not indicated that the initial quantity  
9      or refill quantity of the prescribed drug shall not be changed, (4) such  
10     drug is not a controlled drug, as defined in section 21a-240 of the  
11     general statutes, (5) the pharmacist informs the prescribing practitioner  
12     of such refill at the earliest reasonable time, but not later than forty-  
13     eight hours after such refill is made, and (6) the patient's health  
14     insurance policy or health benefit plan, if any, will cover the refill  
15     quantity dispensed, without additional coinsurance, deductible or

- 16 other out-of-pocket expense required from the patient.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

---

***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state, municipalities, or the state's Medicaid program, as the bill does not change prescription coverage requirements of health plans provided by the state or municipalities.

House "A" eliminates the original bill and its associated fiscal impact and results in the impact described above.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5771 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT AUTHORIZING PHARMACISTS TO DISPENSE DRUGS IN NINETY-DAY QUANTITIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows a pharmacist to refill a prescription for a drug, other than a controlled drug, in an amount greater than the initial quantity prescribed by the practitioner if the:

1. refill is made after the initial prescription is dispensed and does not exceed (a) a 90-day supply and (b) the total quantity authorized by the practitioner;
2. practitioner does not indicate that the initial or refill quantity cannot be changed;
3. pharmacist informs the practitioner of the refill at the earliest reasonable time but no later than 48 hours after the refill; and
4. patient's health insurance policy or health benefit plan, if any, will cover the refill quantity at no additional coinsurance, deductible, or other out-of-pocket expense from the patient.

By law, controlled drugs are generally those with a depressant, stimulant, or hallucinogenic effect upon the higher functions of the central nervous system and tend to promote abuse or dependence.

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, allows pharmacists to refill prescriptions for the same drugs in quantities of up to three days without practitioner authorization under certain circumstances (CGS § 20-616(b)).

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the original bill (File 307), which allowed pharmacists to refill a prescription once, for up to a 90-day supply, without the prescribing practitioner's authorization if (1) they gave certain notice to the patient and practitioner, (2) failing to refill might harm the patient, and (3) the prescription was not for a controlled drug.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    18    Nay   0    (03/12/2015)